you do not define.....(*Interruptions*). At least, let him say whether he considers the people of Azad Kashmir also as citizen of India or not.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Wherever he goes, he creates confusion.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Only Indians are foreigners in Kashmir and nobody else is.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs has given details as to the steps taken for checking infiltration, the number of people arrested and so on. When this question of infiltration from across the border was discussed earlier, there was mention about having aerial survey and other sophisticated methods for keeping a watch on those crossing the border. Has some effort been made, apart from the fencing which has been put up, for having aerial survey to keep a watch on the people and whether it has been found effective in the last six months ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the para-military force which is guarding the border, the BSF, does not do any aerial survey. But whether the Army does any aerial survey or the Air Force does any aerial survey, I am not in a position to answer.

Payment of D.A. to Central Government Employees

*414. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH† :

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the answer to unstarred question 835 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd August, 1988 and state :

(a) whether Government have since received the consumer price index numbers in respect of June, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what is the percentage of Dearness Allowance admissible to Central Government employees w.e.f. 1-7-1988 and by when the same is likely to be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers on base (1960 = 100) for June, 1988 is 782. The twelve monthly average Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (general) (base 1960 = 100) on 30-6-88 is 752.75 which has constituted an increase of 23.80 per cent over the index average of 608.

(c) The rate of DA admissible w.e.f. 1-7-88 will be 23 per cent, 17 per cent and 15 per cent for basic pay upto Rs. 3500/-, over Rs. 3500/- but upto Rs. 6000/- and over Rs. 6000 p.m. respectively. The matter regarding payment of D.A. w.e.f. 1-7-88 is under consideration and a decision will be taken shortly.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know, through you, as to why neither the Secretariat nor the Finance Ministry has provided me with this detailed answer which has now been given before the House. It is my right. In the last five years, I have found

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh.

that it used to be put in my drawer if it is not laid on the Table of the House. I do not know why I have been deprivede of this opportunity to enable me to put supplementaries to my question and why I was not supplied with a copy of the reply which has been given now.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : We have given a copy.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : I have not been given either by the Secretariat or by the Finance Minister.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI ; The Secretariat has to do it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : You should censure the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN ; The answer is not supplied. It is available in the Notice Office. You have to go there and see it.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH ; For five years I have seen that it used to be in my drawer.

MR. CHAIRMAN ; Only when statements are laid, they are supplied.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : It is neither there, nor it is in my drawer nor here. I do not know why it is not there today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can it be ? The Secretariat says that it is there

आप जल्दी में होंगे इसलिए कोई पेपर रह गया होगा ।

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : I have collected all the papers but it is not there. So, it has handicapped me in framing my supplementary. Still I put my suplementary.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : You ask for the Minister's resignation.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : I am not an extremist like you. Mr. Chairman, in order to assess truly and correctly the quetion of determining the percentage of dearness allowance I would like to know, what has been the extent of rise in prices during 1987-88 and 1988-89 which is reflected in the consumer price indices ?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Sir, this question relates to what would be the entitlement.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : Just see, Mr. Chairman, this is becausee I have not been supplied with the reply.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : I cannot help that.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : Somebody should help. What supplementary should I put ?

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : His supplementary is very much relevant. The Minister should see part (a) of the main question.

श्री सभापति : आप अपना जबाब दुबारा धीरे-धीरें पढ़ दीजिए ।

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : As per the direction of the hon. Chairman I would again read out the reply. (a) Yes, Sir (b) All India Consumer Price Index numbers for industrial workers on base (1960 = 100) for June, 1988 is 782. The twelve average consumer price index numbers for industrial workers (general) base (1960 = 100) on 30-6-1988 is 752.75 which has constituted an increase of 23.80 per cent over the index average of 608. (c) The rate of DA admissible w.e.f.

1-7-88 will be 23 per cent, 17 per cent and 15 per cent for basic pay upto Rs. 3,500 over Rs. 3,500 but up to Rs. 6,000 and over Rs. 6,000 p.m. respetively. The matter regarding payment of D A. w.e f 1-7-88 is under consideration and a decision will be taken shortly.

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH : I would like to know the extent of comparative rise in 1987-88 and 1988-89. That is my question.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : I have already stated that over the index average of 608 which was the basis on which the Pay Commission recommended neutralisation of dearness allowance the rise subsequently comes to 23.80 per cent.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would to know, what has been the percentage-wise rise in terms of this consumer price index for the month of June and as on the end of March-April 1988 which will be taken into consideration for the purposes of dearness allowance ?

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Since January 1986 it is 23.8 per cent.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : I know that, I want to know the percentage variation.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : As per the Pay Commission's recommendations' twice in a year the dearness allowance is to be decided. One is to be decided one 1st of January of each year and another on 1st day of July and this is to be paid after two months. That is the dearness allowance which has accrued will be paid by March and September respectively. The two averages would be decided on this basis taking 608 as the base. Therefore the new percentage increase comes to 23.80 per cent.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA : But you have not given the percentage variation in the rise of consumer price index in the corresponding period of last year, so that we know how it gone & up last year and how it is going up now and then link it up with what Mr. Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh has asked.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : I have got the figures for dearness allowance which was to be paid on this basis on 1-1-88. The percentage increase was 18 per cent, 15 per cent and 11 per cent. Now from 1-7-88, the percentage increase as 23 per cent, 17 per cent and 15 per cent. That means 5 per cent, 4 per cent and 4 per cent.

SHRI N.K.P. SALVE : The implementation of the Pay Commision's recommendation has played havoc with the finances and budget of the Centre. The consequent implementation by the States is playing havoc with the finances of the States. Jammu and Kashmir pays as much as 60 per cent of their revenues by way of wage bills of the employees. On top of that now we are going to implement payment of higher wages to neutralise the increase in consumer price index which is continuously spiralling.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your question ?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : What about the price increase ?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : That is outside the purview of this question. Otherwise I can teach him on that.....I am not holding any brief on that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Restrict yourself to the question.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Commensurate with some principles of public finance,

there has to be a proper balance between the different items of expenditure. If we want to go on paying salaries to our employees, let us pay them all the amount and have nothing for development. Is that what you want ? You do not want any development ?

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, he wants to pass on the buck to the workers.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : Sir, may I know from the Minister concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put your question as a Member of the House and not as the Chairman of the Finance Commission.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : This shows that Congrsss(I) is anti-employees.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Who is responsible for the price hike ?

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : At the appropriate time I will tell you who is responsible for that. It is outside the purview of this question..... I am not talking as the Chairman of the Finance Commission. At the appropriate time I shall also tell you about the price rise.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : When the report of the Finance Commission comes, we will discuss that thing then.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE : If the entire revenues are to be used for payment of salaries of employees and if that is not enough, let us borrow and pay to the employees, I have nothing to say. All I want to know is, as it is we are borrowing and incurring revenue expenditures. May I know from the Minister whether there is going to be any rationalisation over this matter ? And are you going to determine any optimum percentage of revenues beyond which these wage bills will not increase ?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Sir, I agree will the hon. Member that these recommendations of the Pay Commission have put a considerable strain on the economy. But it is not correct that we are anti-employees. Perhaps for the first time in the history of independent India, the employees have got the maximum benefit through this Fourth Pay Commission's Report. Up till now we have released four instalments. The total value in the area of dearness allowance only to the employees, leaving aside the pensioners, was Rs. 1266 crores. The present instalment, which will be decided, would cost us Rs. 354 crores. This year it would be Rs. 236 crores. That is why I say, I agree that it is a burden, but whether to fix an optimum level beyond which in the area of salaries more payments should not be made, it pertains to the total organized sector and, therefore, we will have to evolve a consensus with the cooperation of Opposition Members also because, unfortunately, Members sitting opposite are always trying to take up public stances and, therefore, they do not understand the objectivity and pragmatism of the question...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the Minister has just now stated that while payment of dearness allowance is required to be made by the Government—the first on 1st of January and the second on the 1st of July—the payments due on 1st of January are supposed to be paid with the salary bill of March and the payment due in July is supposed to be paid with the salary bill of September. My point is, we are already on the 30th of August and the Government has said that they are going to pay it shortly. This is the reply. Now, why is it that a decision by today has not been taken ? Are they going to take a decision by tomorrow ? Secondly, in the past, for the instalments which were due on 1st July, 1987 and on 1st January, 1988, the Government delayed it by over two months after the two-month period had expired, payment of the instalment was made only

after some drama was put up, pre-arranged, in consultation with the Government, by a certain group. Now, is the Government waiting for the same group to stage a similar drama before they make the announcement this time?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Sir, at least this Government does not act at the staging of somebody's drama. So far as the payment is concerned, I have already said in my statement that a decision will be taken shortly. Now the payment would be due on 1st of October 1988 and still there is a lot of time. We are on the question. But, as you are aware, a sensible and responsible Government has to take into consideration very many other aspects also regarding inflation price rise, its vicious circle—everything—and, therefore, Government has to apply its mind. Government would certainly apply its mind and we will take a decision in accordance with the Pay Commission's recommendations.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, today almost all the developmental activities that have been carried out in any country are formulated by the Government, are financed by the Government and it is the Government that employs the employees also as per its requirements. So it is simply absurd to conceive that the Government will go on spending and spending. It is because of that spending that there is increase in price, inflation and it is because of Government's own spending and so Government, on the one hand, is responsible for the inflation. If somebody suggests that the Government will not pay its employees their due compensation, I call it absurd. So, here I would like to know whether—knowing it fully well that it is because of the developmental activities of the Government that there is inflation and because of the increases granted by the Central Government to its own employees, and the State Government employees also clamour for that and get it also, partly or fully—the Government would kindly try to ensure that all the Government servants in the country who enjoy the same status under the Constitution are always duly compensated against the price rise, whether they are Central Government employees or State Government employees.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : Sir, as I stated earlier, responding to the supplementary of Mr. Salve—of course, I did not say that payment to Government employees by way of dearness allowance is the sole factor for price rise or inflation; it may be one of the factors—certainly it is their right and we have accepted their right. But it may be one of the factors. Hon. Members should be pleased to know that despite there being a very severe strain on the economy, the inflation has been contained and we are trying to contain it without stopping the developmental activities, because in a welfare State like ours, we cannot afford to stop all the developmental activities. Otherwise it would thwart the progress of the nation.

In regard to the other area, as my friend has mentioned, we have got a federal structure. In the federal structure, so far as the State Government employees are concerned, it is for the States to look after their allowances and wages etc The Central Government can only take care of the salary aspect of their own employees.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, I was hinting at a national wage policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is only telling that under the federal structure they cannot compel them, but can persuade them and the State Governments are reasonable.

SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY : Sir, the Government is first inflicting injury and then is applying some sub-standard balm. That is the story going on. Recognising the fact that consequent to its financial policy, price rises are going on and inflation has already entered the double-digit rate, I would like to know whether the Government is going to contain this inflation and have some control on price increase. As a result of the price increase policy of the

Government through the policy of administered prices, market prices are rising and that is reflected in the increase in the working class consumer price index. So, I want a definite reply from the Minister whether the Government is going to take a positive step to contain inflation to change its economic policy and to contain and reduce the administered prices. Unless it is done, nothing will happen.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : ...but for the supplementary is not strictly relevant .

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is very relevant. You try to answer.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : .....but for the benefit of the hon. Members, I would like to say that so far as the organised class is concerned, in their case even if there is a price rise, they get neutralisation. We are equally worried about the class which is not organised at all and where the neutralisation is not available. Therefore, as I stated earlier, we are consistently trying to contain inflation and are also trying to expand our public distribution system and are trying to make the commodities available at subsidised rates. This action has already been taken precisely in the areas where prices and inflation should be contained. And also despite the severe strain caused by last year's drought, you would appreciate, inflation has been contained to a very large extent and it has been appreciated by the entire nation.

Agreement with GNLF Leader

*405. SHRI P. N. SUKUL :†
SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final agreement has been reached with Shri Subhash Ghising, the GNLF leader on the setting up of a Gorkha Hill Council ;

(b) if so, what are the details of the agreement; and

(c) how the Central Government propose to implement the provisions of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Authenticated copies of the two agreements have been laid on the Table of this House on 23rd August, 1988 giving the details sought for that.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : This question was tabled before the Home Minister made a statement in this House about the tripartite agreement reached between the GNLF, the West Bengal Government and the Union Government. In that statement it was stated that the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council would be an autonomous body. I would like to know what does this autonomy imply and how does it compare with the authority of the West Bengal Government ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : As it has been stated in the Statement and the Memorandum of Understanding, the three Hill subdivisions of Darjeeling District, i.e. Kalimpong, Kurseong and Darjeeling and some Mouzas contiguous to Darjeeling will be for the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council. About nineteen subjects have been identified. These have been stated in the Memorandum of Understanding. Those are the nineteen subjects which will be dealt with by the Hill Council directly. In other subjects they will be dependent on the State Government and in cooperation with the State Government they will do it.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL : Sir, my second question is whether the Gorkha Hill Council received funds for the development of the region from the Planning Commission, that is, Union Government or from the

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P. N. Sukul.